



OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



EXHIBIT F-6
4 Pages

FUELS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

DATE: June 25, 2024

TO: District Board Members

FROM: Brad Chisholm, Fire Chief; Jessica Asher, Program Manager & Board Secretary

SUBJECT: Fuels Management Program – Update

BACKGROUND: The Board of Directors directed staff to provide progress reports regarding Fuels Management at its monthly meetings for items not otherwise addressed within the Board agenda. Information about the program can be found on the Department’s Prevention website under the Wildfire Preparedness and Wildfire Prevention tabs. <https://www.ovpsd.org/ovfd/prevention>

DISCUSSION: OV-1: Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction Project
Cross Check Services resumed work on the OV-1 project in early May. As of June 15th, an additional 70 acres have been fully treated since the last report, bringing the total to 105 acres. Staff hosted a site visit to the project on June 14th, which was led by staff Danielle Bradfield, Feather River Forestry, and Dave Mercer, Cross Check Services. Approximately 15 public members attended and provided positive feedback about the learning opportunity and the prioritization of the work.

OV-4 Community Buffer Project Update

One of five hazardous fuel reduction projects identified in the 2022 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), the OV-4 project will address wildfire risk by creating a minimum 150-foot-wide shaded fuel break surrounding the perimeter of residential properties, buildings, and other structures in the valley. The project’s design and permitting phase, for private parcels larger than 3 acres, was funded by the Truckee North Tahoe Forest Management Program (TNTFMP). The Truckee Tahoe Airport District (TTAD) has committed \$400,000 towards the project’s, which is currently estimated to cost \$700,000. The District has been contributing in-kind services to support the the project’s progress.

Staff is collaborating with Registered Professional Forester (RPF) Bradfield to complete the bid documents, with a focus on determining the appropriate phasing

for the project. Additionally, staff is actively engaging the property owners within the OV-4 property boundary and the broader community. The site visit to OV-1 served as a second community meeting related to the project, and feedback was generally positive. However, access to the northern slope is extremely difficult, and staff and experts are working to determine the best way to phase the project to maximize the removal of fuels and minimize the impact on adjacent properties.

Nevada County Wildfire Stakeholder Meeting

The Nevada Wildfire Stakeholder Meeting was held at the Truckee Airport on June 7, 2024. The Nevada County Office of Emergency Services hosted the meeting and saw a large attendance, including Chief Chisholm and Jessica Asher. The meeting featured presentations on Project Maintenance and concluded with local cooperators sharing information about the many projects underway. The meeting was valuable for networking and gaining a better understanding of regional fuel management efforts.

Alpine Meadows Olympic Valley Fire Protection Project

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy conditionally awarded a \$2,449,498 grant to the National Forest Foundation (NFF) to help protect homes and infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface around Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley communities. Through mastication and hand thinning, NFF will work with various partners, including the Tahoe National Forest, to reduce dense fuels on at least 764 acres near Alpine Meadows, contingent upon state budget approval. If the project proceeds as planned, NFF will release a request for quotes and project layout this summer so it can be implemented as early as Summer 2025.

Five Creeks Fire Protection Project

The Cabin Creek Project is the first of three proposed phases of the Tahoe National Forest's 6,000-acre Five Creeks Project. The Cabin Creek Project includes 1,900 acres of forest restoration, with work beginning in June 2024. Mastication and heavy equipment will be used and seen along Highway 89 from Truckee to Cabin Creek. This project is expected to take three years, with some recreation closures currently in effect. Planned treatments include forest thinning, meadow restoration, aspen enhancement, mastication, and prescribed burning. The Five Creeks Project is ultimately intended to extend south to the Silver Creek drainage, which would abut OV-1, with current funding secured only for the first phase.

Green Waste Days

The Friends of Olympic Valley (FoOV) and OV Firewise Community have committed to staffing the site with volunteers to monitor waste disposal. Palisades Tahoe has agreed to stage the event on Olympic Valley Road, across from the Fire Station. District staff works with the FoSV/Firewise Community to publicize the events and provides the labor and equipment necessary to clean-up and load the green waste into dumpsters on the Monday following each event.

	GREEN WASTE COLLECTED (CU. YD)	
Event	2023	2024
June	210	150
July	150	
August	120	
September	120	
October	60	
	660	150

Green Waste-Only Dumpster Rebate Program

In July 2021, following the termination of curbside green-waste collection by TTSD, the PSD Board approved a rebate program to fully reimburse the expense of renting a six-cubic-yard green-waste-only dumpster. This program has been continued through FY '24. The program is first-come, first-served and has a cap of \$10,000 for FY '24. One rebate per garbage customer per year is allowed. The funds are primarily from the Garbage Fixed Asset Replacement Fund (FARF). For non-garbage customers, the source of funds is property tax revenue.

		July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023	July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024
Rate		\$128.93	\$136.67	\$146.03
Number of rebates		18	30	26
Reimbursed Expense	Valley	\$1,524	\$3,144	\$2,773
	River Rd.	\$523	\$950	\$1,022
	Total	\$2,046	\$4,094	\$3,795

Since the rebate was introduced in 2021, **74 rebates** have been provided for a total expense of **\$9,935**.

Defensible Space Inspections (DSI):

DSI notices/guidelines for commercial spaces, homeowners associations (HOA), and single-family residences were mailed out on June 1st, advising that our DSI inspections would begin June 10th. Crews began with commercial/HOA and short-term rentals on an appointment basis and will begin individual residences on the week of June 24th. OVFD will enforce PRC 4291 and note zone zero violations and home hardening opportunities.

OVFD will again use the Fire Aside platform to administer DSI inspections. This online report includes pictures, illustrations, and comments specific to each property and provides simple information to reduce wildfire risk. It also allows residents to take pictures of the amended violations and upload them for approval.

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACTS: The District has been awarded \$1,085,911 in grant funding to plan and implement fuels management projects, as summarized below.

Project	Grantor	Date Awarded	Funding	% Complete
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)	CAL FIRE	Oct. 2021	\$31,898	100%
Fuels Reduction: North Ridge – OV-1 (120 acres)	CAL FIRE	Nov. 2022	\$539,888	90%
Fuels Reduction: Evacuation Corridor O.V. Road – OV-3 (3 acres)	Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF)	July 2022	\$50,000	0%
	Trout Unlimited / Friends of Squaw Creek	Nov. 2021	\$19,000	100%
Fuels Reduction: Community Buffer – OV-4 (127 acres)	Design and Permitting - TTCF / CAL FIRE	July 2023	\$45,125	75%
	Implementation – Truckee Tahoe Airport District	April 2024	\$400,000	0%

The District has an on-call contract with Danielle Bradfield, a Registered Professional Forester and founder of Feather River Forestry, for grant writing and consulting services. This contract has a not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000 annually. Staff dedicate significant time to developing our Fuels Management Program and administering grant contracts.

Expenses related to the Green Waste Days (GWD) are funded through rates and the Garbage Fixed Asset Replacement Fund (FARF), which currently has a balance of approximately \$139,000. The estimated costs for this program include the Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD) delivery, pick-up, and disposal of three 30-cubic yard containers per GWD, along with administration and labor. These costs are expected to be approximately \$3,300 per event, assuming Friends of Olympic Valley (FoOV) and the Firewise Community can provide volunteers for the six District-sponsored GWDs.

RECOMMENDATION: This report is informational only; no action is requested from the Board.

ATTACHMENTS: None.

DATE PREPARED: June 18, 2024